(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. The annual growth rate of export of milk & milk products in rupees during the last five years are as under:

Year	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Growth rate	-26.58	317.71	72.43	-35.55	98.69

Potential for increasing milk production

†797. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a greater possibility to increase the capability of milk production of every milching cattle in the country;

(b) if so, the estimate of the average total quantum thereof;

(c) whether Government has given consideration to research and additional measure to increase the productivity of cows and buffaloes in the country to achieve this objective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Productivity of Indian cattle was only about 1109 kg/year whereas the world average was 2287 kg/year during 2007. Eleventh plan working group constituted by the Planning Commission has targeted growth of 5% per annum in milk production.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The research activities carried out at Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) institutes focus on genetic, nutritional and reproductive interventions to enhance productivity of dairy animals. These include: i) genetic improvement of indigenous cattle is being' carried out at Project Directorate on Cattle (PDC) Meerut; ii) PDC also has programme to develop a high yielding crossbred strain of cattle, the frieswal in collaboration of Military Dairy Farms; iii) genetic improvement of buffaloes are being carried out at Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) Hissar and iv) research on nutrition of cattle and buffaloes are being carried out at National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP) Bangalore.

In addition to this Government is implementing National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) for genetic upgradation of bovine population on priority basis. Government is also implementing three Central Sector Schemes, namely Central Cattle Breeding Farms (CCBFs), Central Herd Registration Scheme (CHRS) and Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute (CFSP&TI) for development of bovine population.

Areas of sowing land of kharif crops

†798. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been difference in sowing acreage of several kharif crops during 2007 and 2008;

(b) if so, the area of sowing land of rice (paddy), oil seeds, pulses and other cash crops during above years; and

(c) the reasons for the increase/decrease of sowing acreage of land during 2007-08 and how the consumers are likely to be affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been difference in sowing average of kharif crops during 2007 and 2008 as indicated in the table below:

(Lakh hectares)

Crop	Kharif 2008 (As on 17.10.2008)	Kharif 2007 (Corresponding period)
Rice (Paddy)	384.75	373.79
Oilseeds	183.44	177.43
Pulses	104.49	123.33
Sugarcane	44.15	52.95
Cotton	190.92	92.11

Source: Crop Weather Watch Group meeting.

(c) The area coverage under some crops of kharif 2008 was affected due to deficient/scanty rainfall at the critical time of sowing at some places during monsoon 2008 and floods in some parts of country. However, overall good rainfall has resulted in higher area coverage in some crops like rice. It is envisaged to bring additional area under rabi crops of 2008 which would compensate for the loss of area during kharif 2008-09 and, hence the consumers are not likely to be adversely affected.

Scheme for evolution of milching cattle

†799. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme for the evolution of milching cattle under the National Agricultural Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme and the date on which it was started; and

(c) the amount of fund allocated for this scheme each year alongwith the quantum of funds actually spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Genetic improvement is a long term activity and Government of India has initiated a major programme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" (NPCBB) from October 2000

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.